

Background

House Bill 4 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature included the high-quality prekindergarten requirements, one of which is student-to-teacher ratio. Statute and Commissioner's Rule regarding student-to-teacher ratio include the following:

- **TEC §29.167 (d)** A school district must attempt to maintain an average ratio in any prekindergarten program class of not less than one certified teacher or teacher's aide for each 11 students.
- **19 TAC §102.1003 (h)** A school district or an open-enrollment charter school must attempt to maintain an average ratio in any prekindergarten program class of not less than one certified teacher or teacher's aide for every 11 students.

Definition

Local education agencies are required to attempt to maintain an average 11:1 ratio. The ratio required under the high-quality prekindergarten requirements is separate from class size limits. Senate Bill (SB) 2081, passed by the 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, added prekindergarten classes to the existing class size limit of 22 for kindergarten through grade 4.

While the class size limit is 22 students per class, local education agencies should attempt to maintain an average student-to-teacher ratio of 11:1 across all high-quality prekindergarten classrooms. For example, both requirements would be met if a full classroom with 22 students includes the teacher of record and an educational aide. Local education agencies may employ various strategies to attempt to maintain an average 11:1 ratio.

Resources

The [Early Childhood Program Self-Assessment \(Prekindergarten\)](#) include rubrics for evaluating the high-quality prekindergarten requirements including student-to-teacher ratio. The program self-assessment includes planning worksheets to identify strengths and areas of opportunity. Additional support can be found in the [Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines](#) and on the [Early Childhood Best Practices webpages](#) to support optimal learning environments, developmentally appropriate practices, and implementation. For additional support with teacher and educational aide certification requirements visit the [Division of Educator Certification](#) webpage. The State Waivers Unit has a page devoted to [maximum class size exceptions](#) with helpful resources and information on waivers of the class size limit.